REPUBLICAN NEWS

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VICTIMS OF BRITISH BRUTALITY IN BELFAST PRISON

TAKEN AFTER BRITISH SOLDIERS AND R.U.C. COMMANDOS COWARDLY ATTACKED REPUBLICAN REMAND PRISONERS

BRITISH "JUSTICE" 1973 STYLE WILL NOT BREAK THEIR SPIRIT

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With the tragic death at 40 years of age Tom O'Donnell, the Republican Movement has lost one of its most dedicated members.

He joined the Movement when he was 18 years of age and was interned during the 1957 campaign.

A Ballymacarrett man, he was one of the first to rise to the defence of the area in 1969 and was immediately accepted by the beleagured people as their natural leader.

As 3rd Batt. O.C. Oglaigh na h-Eireann, he quickly organised the Volunteers of the area into one of the best units in Belfast. Ballymacarrett was always considered a "soft" target in case of attack from hostile elements, but they soon learned to their cost that with Tom O'Donnell's leadership both in action and guidance that the Ballymacarrett people were not going to be intimidated.

He was on "the run" from the British Army and RUC from 1969 and was arrested in England in 1970 on charges that were eventually dismissed . . . but not before he suffered six months solidary confinement, only being allowed one hour exercise each day. When news of his release reached Belfast, there was great joy in Ballymacarrett.

Because of his vast experience, Tom O'Donnell, was eventually called to serve on G.H.Q. a part he was reluctant to fill as it meant leaving for long periods his beloved Belfast. He was seriously injured in a car accident last February and died in Richmond Hospital, Dublin, last month.

Many tributes have reached us for Tom O'Donnell, and we have searched our hearts to find the right words to express our feelings. We leave it to the old woman from Ballymacarrett who said at his funeral, as it passed by: "Farewell Tom, our finest son."

CAPTAIN TOM O'DONNELL
G.H.Q. STAFF OFFICER

Six Irish Girls Now Interned

ANGELA NELSON, a 17-year old girl from Rockdale Street, Belfast, was arrested at 5 a.m. on Thursday, 17th May.

She was kept in solitary confinepnen in a small cell in Townhall Street, until 8 p.m. the following Sunday, being subjected to frequent interrogations during the period by RUC Special Branch men, particularly a man called McKinney.

It is alleged that he told Miss Nelson that he would like to get into her bunk to make "love" to her. It seems that this in only one of the many obscene remarks made to the young girl.

She was removed on Sunday under heavy armed guard to Armagh Prison where she will be kept for 28 days before being brought to Long Kesh Concentration Camp to appear before Whitelaw's secret Tribunal!

Disclaimer

In our issue (21st April, 1973) a Roll of Honour was published. According to it, Vol. Terence Toolan, "A" Company, 3rd Batt. was shot by British troops in 1972. We have been asked by Mrs. Toolan's family to state that he was not a member of the I.R.A.

GOOD 'PALS' ON BORDER

IT IS REPORTED that the closer co-operation at the Border between British and Free State military forces will soon lead to joint patrols along the Border.

Recently a British army officer referred to the co-operation received from the Gardai and the Free State Army after the blast at Culloville when two British soldiers were killed.

Mrs. M. Burns, who lives at Carricarnon, about 200 yards on the Southern side from the Border, told our reporter that a Free State soldier had pointed a gun at her after she had photographed a roadside meeting between British paras and F.S. soldiers.

Mrs. Burns said: "I noticed British paratroopers chatting on the roadside with Free State soldiers. As they were there for quite a time, I decided to photograph this strange sight. When I started taking pictures a British officer jumped down from an armoured car and crossed a few yards over the Border. He told a FS soldier to take the camera from me and smash it.

"I refused to hand over my camera," Mrs. Burns added, "The Free State soldier pointed his rifle at me and asked for the camera. I told him if he wanted it, it would be over my dead body. I took three more photographs and managed to get away in a car."

Our top picture: "F.S." is Free State soldier searching car about 10 yards from British soldier involved in same duties. Bottom picture: shows British army officer calling on FS soldiers to take camera from Mrs. Burns.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,
I wish to protest most strongly about the continuing harassment of our gallant boys in khaki by you Irish people. As a life long reactionary and imperialist I have for long been proud of the British sense of fair play and believe that the wogs in those countries fortunate enough to have seen our boys in action accepted this. When I was in Borneo we really respected Johnny Gyppo the way he came at us head on, wearing only a loin cloth and carrying a pointed stick. Gunning him down or gassing him was a much fun as pig sticking. Nowadays however you bloody Paddies don't use pointed sticks or even bows and arrows. Some of you are even believed to have guns and bombs! This just is'nt cricket! Next you'll be demauling tanks, CS gas, concentration camps and what not. From watching T.V. westerns you should know that we white men are just not allowed to give you unstable Indians guns or whiskey!

This brings me to a second point. Ever since the Para chappies had that little shoot in in Derry and eliminated 14 of you Paddies our lads have been barred from this kind of exciting massacre. At present we're only allowed to knock off 2 or 3 civilians a week - and the plain clothes chappies get most of the fun anyway! Have you any idea how frustrating this is to a natural high spirited funloving boy soldier, fresh from the delights of Brixton, Pentonville or Strangeways?

And talking of frustration, one of the greatest benefits of the old Empire was the way in which our boys could spread a wide variety of social diseases to the local populace through contacts with the neighbourhood Frauleins. Now we find that none of them will play ball - and when the odd one did recently, three of our boys ended up with a nasty dose of lead poisoning!

All in all I feel I must conclude that you people just aren't British!

Yours incoherently,
Major Braindamage.
(Retired Butcher).

OUR IRELAND

By EDWARD O'RAWE

If a man has a wife and children, his home is his castle. He would lay down his life to defend his family; he would rather see his own life's blood ebbing away than that of any of his family.

So too with each country.... The people of any country are it's family, it's children. All are brothers and sisters on the same land. Those who love their country, like the man who loves his family, are ready to lay down their lives in the defense of their nation.

Ireland is a small nation. The blood of many of her children has darkened her soil.... yet the invader remains.

Many young Irishmen and women have sacrificed their young lives for Irish Freedom.... many are ready and willing to follow that example.

We long for the day when we can shed our chains and bonds, then we can say with pride and joy: "This is our land, free and united.... the sacrifices of countless Irish patriots have not been in vain."

LATEST ADDITION

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

BY EMMETT GROGAN

THE BRITISH:

- "practised a policy of divide and rule amongst the working class population."
- "established concentration / detention camps."
- "planted explosives in cinemas and local halls and then blew them up."
- "lied continually about their casualties."
- "fired teargas into funeral processions."
- "practiced a policy of repression and harassment upon the local people by raiding at all hours and making noise all night to prevent any sleep."
- "frequently illtreated internees and tortured many political prisoners."
- "established a "black propaganda squad" to plant forgeries, tell lies to newsmen and attempted to discredit the rebels, often with fake letters to the press."
- "murdered captured suspects who were 'shot while trying to escape."
- " took hostages on patrol with them, tied to their armoured cars."
- "incited sectarianism."
- "lied, schemed and broke their promises over cease-fires."
- "consistently said that there could be 'no talks with men of violence' etc. and then held secret talks."
- "perjured themselves repeatedly in rigged court trials."

The list could go on and on. So what, you say, we know this happens here. So it does, but it is perhaps interesting to note that none of these quotes are taken from a book on recent Irish history. They are all taken from the memoirs of General Grivas the Eoka leader and refer to the wonderful British Army's behaviour in Cyprus from 1955 to 1958. Grivas himself happens to be a rather unpleasant and arrogant old Fascist, however, it is instructive that the Brits have learned nothing.

LUCRATIVE SALARIES MORE IMPORTANT FOR PARTY POLITICANS THAN JUSTICE AND PEACE

In rejecting the British White Paper, the Republican Movement pointed out that one of the chief aims of the proposals was to confuse and fragment the nationally-minded community and weaken their resolve to end British rule. Subsequent events have born out the validity of that prediction. The 'whiff of politics' promoted by Mr. Whitelaw has been blindly grasped by discredited politicians who see the Local and Assembly elections as a means to perpetuate themselves in lucrative positions at the expense of suffering people. The solidarity of the nationalist people which was born out of internment now stands threatened by the unscrupulous election tactics of the S.D.L.P. and other parties.

In its election manifesto, the S.D.L.P. claimed they had secured political status for the prisoners in Belfast last June. That claim was first made by Mr. Austin Currie on June 20th last in a cheap attempt to gain some credibility for his disintegrating party. Within hours,

Mr. John Hume repudiated Mr. Currie's claim and the following statement was issued to the press:-

"The S.D.L.P. Parliamentary in a statement said it wished to make very clear that they regarded the granting of the demands of the prisoners as due to the self-sacrifice of the men on hunger strike".

..... Irish Press, 21.6.72.

"Mr. Hume said the achievement of political status by the prisoners was due to the self-sacrifice of the men themselves who went on hunger strike".

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..... Irish Independent 21.6.72.

Having decided to betray the political prisoners and the people by accepting the British White Paper, the S.D.L.P. now revert to the gutter tactics of Austin Currie without any regard for truth. It is deplorable that Mr. John Hume should stand over a manifesto which he knows to be deceitful and dishonest. It is obvious that the S.D.L.P. are united in perpetuating the corrupting politics of the old Stormont by doing their utmost to be part of the new one. Continuation of their present lucrative salaries from the British Government is more important than seeking justice and peace for the people they claim to represent.

Baseless and Blatently Untrue.

The S.D.L.P. manifesto alwo claimed

The S.D.L.P. manifesto also claimed that the Provisionals had met Mr. Whitelaw withoug any conditions whatsoever. That claim is baseless and blantently untrue as Messrs. Hume and Devlin well know. Before any talks took place between representatives of the British Government and the Republican Movement, the following conditions were demanded of Mr. Whitelaw:

(a) The immediate granting of political status to Republican and Loyalist prisoners.

(b) The immediate release of a senior officer of the Belfast Brigade from imprisonment.

(c) Written credentials from the British representatives to show they would be speaking with the authority of the Secretary of State.

(d) Any truce talks to be on the basis of it being bilateral.

(e) Truce terms to be puf in writing and witnessed by an agreed party.

(f) A meeting between Mr. Whitelaw and representatives of the Republican Movement to take place a certain number of days following the implementation of the truce in order to discuss and secure acceptance of the I.R.A. peace plan, viz.

m

1. A Declaration acknowledging the right of the Irish people to self-determination.
2. A commitment to withdraw British armed forces from Ireland by a specific date.

3. A general amnesty for all political prisoners in Britain and Ireland.

S.D.L.P. Depths of Depravity.

All the above conditions were conceded by Mr. Whitelaw and his decision was conveyed to the Republican Movement by Messrs. Hume and Devlin. For these gentlemen to claim now as they have done so in their manifesto, that the Provisionals entered into talks with Mr. Whitelaw without conditions illustrated the depths of depravity to which they are willing to go in order to secure a meaningless if somewhat lucrative office from the British Secretary of State. They conveniently forget the assurances given them and the Derry Peace Women by Mr. Whitelaw that internees would be released once a truce became operative. In effect, not one internee was released during the truce period; on the contrary, eighteen Irish people died 'mysterious deaths' and the U.D.A. were given a free hand to intimidate and murder innocent people. The S.D.L.P. were enjoying their summer holidays while Republicans were working night and day to maintain a fragile peace and preparing for the most major political negotiations with the British since 1921.

Free Elections Day.

Elements within the S.D.L.P. were most displeased at the Provisionals forcing the British Government to the Conference Table. Those elements now dominate within the Party and they are determined to work the British system for their own personal gain. Their exploitation of the internees position will not be tolerated. Neither will the tactics of the Republican Labour Party whose conduct has already been condemned by Ulster Executive of Sinn Fein.

We reiterate our call to the Republican-minded people of the North to ignore the Local Elections. Defeating British Army terror is top priority. Being diverted into a cul-de-sac of meaningless politics serves nobody but the Whitelaw regime and party politicians who cared little in the past and less now for the suffering of the beleagured people. There must be no consent for institutions which are designed to maintain fascist rule in the Six Counties. Free elections will be held some day and Irish people will fashion organs of government which will work for the betterment of all the people. Solidarity in the face of oppression is the only realistic policy now.

Signed:
P. O 'NEILL (RUNAI, I.R.P.B.).

we want our country now

The Brits are beaten: Stormont has fallen; their foul methods of keeping their colonies down by murder, blackmail, lies, propaganda and brutalisation have been exposed. Their bit of White Paper which it took all their politicians, civil servants, professors and myth makers a year to work out has not even pacified the people for a week let alone the forty weeks that would be necessary to bring their new instrument of imperialism, their puppet assembly to life.

This failure is the more remarkable, when the collaboration of the selfish Catholic middle class in devising the magic wand which would seem to solve the Irish question is taken into account. The calculation was that if the 'Leaders of the people' could be bought off by a few formulae they would use their influence to stifle opposition.

The Cardinal played his part as the Brit's hack. He and the other Church leaders got together to warn that any premature comment on the White Paper would be an attempt by self-appointed leaders, to brainwash the Irish people. In the Meantime, all the media were filled with licensed puppets, hired in one way or another by the Brit's propaganda machine, all bleating with one reservation or another their welcome for the bit of paper as a miraculous advance towards solving the Irish question.

But the men in Long Kesh Concentration Camp have got things straight, and their advertisement and letters in this week's Irish News hit the nail on the head. The White Paper would mean the return of a 'reformed' Stormont which the Officials would have schemed for, the Provisionals fought and died for, and the Unionists and their good friends the S.D.L.P. would inherit. (Remember the Brian and Jerry Show)?

It must not be allowed to happen. We have tasted partial victory, and the final victory is within our grasp. What other country in Europe has a whole imperialist army constantly patrolling, searching and shooting in "it's own" cities? Britain's position is untenable. The whole world is horried at what is going on here, as we were horried at Vietnam. Only the obtuseness of the Orangemen and centuries of our being used to abnormal horrors in Ireland make us sometimes forget the enormity of the horrors that Britain's continued involvement in Ireland brings.

Britain is desperately trying to paper over the cracks, put the lid back on the situation for another few years, get things back to "normal". Britain is the sick man of Europe. Her economy is virtually bank rupt, her Tory Prime Minister tries to encourage his unfortunate citizens not to see themselves as the fifth rate power they are. Britain's survival on it's own is impossible, which is why she is going on bended knees to the really successful capitalist countries of Europe, selling her pride and accepting any price to get in to the EEC club.

Britain cannot afford the money, the humiliation and the public shame of the horrors she is perpetrating here. She must get out She can either get out on her terms, as Lloyd George did when he bullied and conned the Irish people into doing his dirty work and killing each other to establish a Free State and a Protestant statelet, which meant poverty and oppression for all Irish people who did not accept British domination. OR SHE CAN GET OUT NOW ON OUR TERMS. AND THAT MEANS UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER ON HER PART' BECAUSE SHE CANNOT MAINTAIN THIS MILITARY POLICE STATE FOREVER.

As long as the centre of every town is blocked with concrete barriers, and the streets of the cities closed with iron railings and patrolled by tanks more vicious than any seen in Budapast or, Prague, we have Britain over a barrel, and she will do anything to get out.

We can hope for nothing from the English working-class. They are imperialist to the backbone, and full of a racialist superiority complex which is foreign to any possibility of socialism. They have the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant mentality even the sons of Irish Catholic immigrants in the British Army are as brainwashed as the rest have accepted their position. at the bottom of the British heap. They work and die for their capitalist masters, putting down resistance to British profitmaking in any part of the world, including the country from which their parents were forced to emigrate as a result of centuries of British economic exploitation of Ireland.

The so-called Officials pin all their hopes on the British working class, on support for their ludicrous Bill of Rights from the British T.U.C. What do they make of the one paper which has any connection with the trade unions, the Labour paper, "The Sun", which supports internment, sneers and jeers at us, and referred to the torture of our interned men as "alleged ill-treatment"? Are these so-called Republicans out of their minds?

We are on our own. The only people feared by the Brits are those the Provisionals represent. But the whole point is that we have proved we can go it alone, and bring Britain to her knees. Britain is a paper tiger. Now is the time for the last determined effort to get the Brits out of our country in every way, politically, economically and socially.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE IRISH REVOLUTION! NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE NATIONALIST WORKING CLASS TO ACHIEVE THE REAL NATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION, BY FIGHTING THIS FIGHT TO THE END AND FINALLY WINNING POWER. WE CAN DO IT, WE ARE DOING IT.... NOT SOME TIME IN THE DISTANT FUTURE BUT NOW.

WE WANT OUR COUNTRY AND WE WANT IT NOW. BOYCOTT ALL BRITISH ELECTIONS.

Bodenstown

The Annual Republican Commemoration in Honour of Wolfe Tone, will be held in BODENSTOWN, 10th June, 1973.

Assemble in field at Sailins, 2.15 p.m.

SPEAKER:
MARTIN McGUINESS
(Derry)

CHAIRMAN:
RUAIRI O BRADAIGH
(Roscommon)

CHIEF MARSHALL:
EAMON MAC THOMAIS
(Dublin)

No one will be allowed to take photographs without an official permit. These can be applied for in field.

victory is near

WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN ULSTER is people making its own history. A people solemn and dignified in its ceremonies. A people weaving with humour and passion the web of its daily struggle. I saw a crowd celebrating and laughing; their loved ones were in prison, in the cemetery or on the run. And this holiday laughter had the same explosive force as the gravity of the marchers . . . . .

The British poison press wants to make us believe that the Provisional I.R.A. does not have the support of the nationalist population of Ulster. They have gone so far as to "buy the Pope" as one Catholic white-haired woman put it, after Pope Paul VI's Easter Speech. The millions of pounds extorted in taxes from British workers are used to imprison international opinion in a network of lying propaganda. Nothing is left out: it's all there, down to the New York public relations firm and the agents provacteurs robbing banks.

Lt. Colonel Tugwell's services and those of Major Wallace may be able to put the passing big journalists in their pockets. Collected at the door of the luxury hotels where they have the impression of living dangerously (seven attacks on the Europa Hotel since 1971) they will be driven round the well-worn out tour of the battle grounds in great comfort. After which they will send to their newsdesks the information handed out by their hosts.

But what can the British poison press do against a crowd of twenty thousand people who turned out on the Falls Road to cheer the Republican Army's march? A crowd which made a human barricade between the marches and the forces of occupation when three armoured cars tried to cut their way through the march?

What can this imperialist poison press do against a population which is beginning to recognise for the women volunteers of the I.R.A. those rights - already gained in practice - for which millions of women throughout the world are fighting? "A stubborn bunch of fillies" as an I.R.A. man said to Newsweek. "You have to approach them" with requests, not orders."

What can the British poison press do against a people who are believers but have told the Catholic Hierarchy that they will answer to the Irish people for betraying them? How can this poison press claim to be "breaking the back" of this people, since, a few weeks ago, the women of Ardoyne fought hand to hand with the military scum who had just killed a boy of twelve years?

In Armagh, Newry, Derry, Belfast, in the country districts, scores of men and women recently have been arrested, maltreated, tortured, then released without charge. Between August 1972 and April 1973, more than 400 people have been condemned to long prison sentences by special courts. There are still hundreds of internees in the hut and cages of Long Kesh, and their visiting rights were stopped over the Easter holiday.

And then the dead, the wounded, the ones on the run, For every member of the I.R.A. killed in action or imprisoned, the British will have to reckon with three sisters and ten cousins who will join the recruitment ranks - not to forget the uncles, the aunts, the friends, who will offer shelter and comfort to those who fight in hiding.

As much as the "crude" bombs which have cost ten British bomb disposal experts their lives, the weapons of the nationalists are the love and the anger with which they build a bridge between the living and the dead, pierce the solitude of the prisons, and find it easy to bring into their living popular culture the Camillo Torres' and the George Jacksons of the whole world.

LETTER FROM DUNDALK

Sir, Through all our struggles for freedom we have had to put up with the Rantings of men like Frs. P. Murphy and A. Mc Carthy. In my opinion they are acting as unpaid agents for England, unpaid that is by England but paid in the hard earned pennies and halfpennies of their struggling parishioners. These men live in great comfort and drive around in the very best of cars while their people (of whom they are supposed to be the servants) make do with poverty line meals.

No law of God is broken if people just refuse to contribute to the churches these men are stationed in. In Dundalk we have heard tales of Fr. Mrurphy, Fr. A. Mc. Carthy and Fr. "Bingo" Mc Namara. I can feel nothing but disgust for men of this calibre.

Carry on your fight for freedom dispite these men, the day will soon come when they will be claiming that they too fought for our cause.

Mrs. Catherine Adems.

KEVIN KILPATRICK SHOT DEAD

We wish to condemn in the strongest possible terms the pack of lies the British forces told about the incident in which 20 year old Kevin Kilpatrick from Clonoe, Coalisland was murdered by the U.D.R. on Sunday night, 13.5.73, at Ardboe.

The British Army said the van which he was driving failed to stop at a U.D.R. checkpoint and when shots were fired from the van at the U.D.R., the U.D.R. returned fire with result that the van overturned and inside it they found Kevin Kilpatrick lying dead.

The following is what really happened, as seen by eye witnesses. The van came around the crossroads and the U.D.R. were standing on both sides of the road in the hedges. NO STOP SIGNAL was given but when the van had got about 5 yards past the patrol the U.D.R. opened fire into the back of it killing Kevin, then the van overturned. We would ask why did the U.D.R. not find the gun or guns which were supposed to be firing at them. If there had been any guns they would have been found because the van overturned almost beside the U.D.R.

As can be seen this is another young Irishman murdered by British Forces and as usual they try to cover it up by saying he was shooting at them. Until we get rid of the British from Ireland it will happen again and again.

We in Ireland cannot forget the hundreds of people like Kevin who have been murdered or injured by the British forces or the people in prisons and internment camps. Let not the sacrifices of these Irish people be in vain. We in S.F. ask you to BOYCOTT THE L.G. elections and show the British we want nothing to do with them. Until Britain is out of Ireland there can never be peace or justice as history has shown us.

BRITISH TYRANNY

By Father Art O'Neill

THE AMERICAN Declaration of Independence asserts thus: - "Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes, but when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government."

Christians of every denomination and men of no religion at all accepted that as a fair statement in 1776 and that fact should not surprise us. What it says can be appreciated by an honest, mature man anywhere, despite the fact that it recommends a drastic course of action bound to involve bloodshed and suffering.

The right asserted in the Declaration is what a Catholic theologian would call the right of insurrection.

When is an insurrection justified in the light of Catholic moral teaching? The conditions justifying it are these: (1) the regime is tryannical, (2) peaceful means have not been fruitful, (3), the rising has a real hope of eventual success, (4) the rising is carried out with a due sense of proportion and (5) the leaders have a mandate (i.e., solid support manifested in some way) for their actions.

It has already been shown that the Republican Movement have the mandate required by the Church, by natural law. Let us now consider whether the British regime is tyrannical or not.

A tyrant is a ruler who uses his power and authority not for the commor good but in an arbitrary and basically oppressive manner. Tyranny then means much more than injustice of a sort or even occasional grave injustice. Nobody can rightly and wisely expect a government to be perfect or even without some grave faults. No! Tyranny means that grave injustice is so common and continuous that the aim of the government is being radically undermined.

The aim of true government is the common good, i.e., the bringing about of such conditions in society that all citizens may be enabled to achieve for themselves a fully human life. An insurrection must be seen as a drastic measure and drastic measures should only be taken in an extreme situation. Have we such a situation in Occupied Ireland today?

It will be found by a trial that almost any approved author writes of what tyranny means in such a way, that the reader could be pardoned for thinking that he had the Six Counties in mind, without actually mentioning it. Thus many authors give as an example of tyranny ruling in the interests not of the whole community but only of a section of it determined on grounds of race, political opinions or religion. Other examples frequently given are where the government's policies manifestly tend to corrupt religion and morality, where basic human freedoms are suppressed, where the rule of law, a law before which all are equal, has been replaced by the rule of force in the interests of supporters of the government party.

A basic characteristic noted as being present in tyrannies of any kind is their radical and violent refusal to put onto paper and implement reform. It is in the clear, open light of this teaching that a Catholic in Ireland today must reflect upon the whole problem of British rule and decide whether that rule is tyrannical, whether the present rising against it is justified and whether the Republican Movement merits his (continuing) support.

Is there good reason to be convinced that the British regime is tyrannical? Yes! The whole existence of the Partition statelet is ESSENTIALLY DEPENDENT UPON a policy of discrimination not merely gravely unjust to many individuals but sufficent to force scores of thousands to emigrate. The basic British policies of denying housing and, even more so, employment to Catholics amounts to far more than grave injustice; it is a sentence to material, moral and spiritual degradation.

The whole legal, judicial, police and administrative apparatus has always been deliberately and radically bent upon the oppression and expulsion of Catholics — who readily identify Nationalists for the British. The Special Powers Act spells out in every detail a system designed to deny any right of legal redress to anyone claiming he has been wronged by any arm of the state or any supporter of government policies.

Economic rundown of selected areas has been a proven policy of the regime. Scores of thousands of Catholics have been burned or driven out of their homes in recurring pogroms flowing from the inflamatory speeches of Unionist political figures. Hundreds of murders, where evidence abounded, have gone unpunished. Torture, harassment, attacks upon Catholic homes by "security" forces of every category, internment in concentration camps designed to break men mentally and morally. All these have been (in varying degrees at different times) the PERMANENT AND POLITICALLY ESSENTIAL ACCOMPANIMENT OF BRITISH RULE.

British rule cannot survive in Ireland without these. What reasonable man, informed in detail of these matters, could deny that this is tyranny? Under such a regime a Rising is inevitable in every generation as long as people have any self-respect and human dignity, or any compassion for the sufferings of others.

The conviction of the Provisionals that the direct method is necessary is a conviction springing from true compassion and patriotism. It is a love of the Irish people expressed in deeds and not only in words. It is my opinion that the Provisionals have stepped forward not to obtain salaries for themselves as Britain's own chosen "opposition" but to accept personal risk and responsibility, to give real, unrewarded leadership and — without any lies about the cost not being heavy — to deliver future generations from what we have endured.

Father Bernard Haring, C.S.S.R., teaching theology in Rome, says this in Volume three of his universally admired book:
"The Law of Christ" (Mercier Press, Cork) page 152 speaking of the circumstances justifying a rising:—
"Competent men are not only permitted, but in cases of extreme need of the people, obliged to make the decision even at very great personal risk."

In the opinion of many, the Provos are entitled to the gratitude, the admiration and above all, the assistance of all true Irishmen and women.

APOLOGY

In recent weeks there has been a large increase in the number of letters and articles sent to us for publication. This has resulted in a backlog of items not yet printed. We thank our correspondents for their practical co-operation and ask them to be patient.

As these pictures show, the Political Hostages in Belfast Prison, honoured Ireland's dead on Easter Sunday